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URBAN DISTRICT OF ILKLEY

ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WHITE WELLS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1956

JOHN BATTERSBY
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health (Acting)

J. H. WILSON
M.R.S.I, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.
Chief Public Health Inspector

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Vice-Chairman :
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Medical Officer of Health (Acting) :
JOHN BATTERSBY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :
J. H. WILSON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Additional Public Health Inspector :
R. S. DYKES, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

The appointment of Medical Officer of Health is a part-time one.

ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956

To The Chairman and Members of
The Health Committee of Ilkley.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of Ilkley for the year 1956. Dr. Procter's retirement in October left me temporarily responsible for the area, and the issue of this Annual Report may serve to relieve pressure on his successor.

Statistically the returns for the area are quite unremarkable. Indeed, generalisations with a small population in Annual Reports are more and more apt to be misleading. A survey of the health of Ilkley, however, fully merits its reputation as a Health Resort.

Mr. Wilson has dealt comprehensively with Environmental Sanitation : I find his Report both informative and illuminating.

I wish to thank your Chairman, Members of the Health Committee, Clerk of the Council, and other Officials for their courtesy and help at all times.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BATTERSBY,

Medical Officer of Health (Acting).

ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT

HEALTH REPORT 1956

ERRATUM

In paragraph 5 on page 2 please substitute the following final sentence:

"Deaths from other than natural causes were 10, 7 accidental and 3 suicide."

SECTION 1—VITAL STATISTICS

Births

There were 262 live births referable to the Ilkley District during 1956. This is substantially greater than the figure for 1955 which was 217. The number of illegitimate births is the same as for last year and the stillbirths were 7, one more than in 1955.

The birth rate calculated without reference to the age and sex distribution of the population is 15.2 (crude rate). Application of the comparability factor produces an adjusted rate of 16.3 per thousand population. This adjusted rate is comparable with the adjusted rates for West Riding Urban Districts and for the entire Administrative County and the rate for England and Wales.

Stillbirths, related to total births, show a rate of 26 per thousand which is slightly less than the rate for 1955.

Deaths

The 236 deaths recorded during the year is a lower figure than that for 1955. It must be borne in mind that the figures for Ilkley include a number of deaths in hospital of persons who were not Ilkley residents. In 1956, for the first time, the comparability factor for deaths includes allowance for residential institutions in the district. Thus, whilst the crude rate is 13.7 application of the comparability factor gives an adjusted rate of 9.9 per thousand population. This rate compares very favourably with that for West Riding Urban Districts, the West Riding County and England and Wales.

Among the causes of death, malignant diseases, heart and circulatory diseases and diseases of the respiratory system figure most prominently. More people died from diseases of the heart and circulatory system than in the previous year. Deaths from other than natural causes were 17, 12 accidental and 5 suicide.

Infant Mortality

Six infants died within a year of birth and of these four died within four weeks of birth. Two of the neonatal deaths were due to congenital malformation.

The rate is much higher than that for last year for, being related to live births, it is very sensitive to an increase in infant deaths, however small. The rate of 22.9 per thousand live births does, however, compare favourably with the other area rates given in the comparative statistics in this report.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

I. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	8,610
Registrar General's Estimated Population	17,250
Number of Inhabited Houses	5,846
Rateable Value	£210,951
Product of a Penny Rate	832

II. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	142	112	254
Illegitimate	6	2	8
Total	148	114	262

Crude rate per 1,000 Estimated Population .. 15.2

Adjusted rate per 1,000 Estimated Population .. 16.3

Stillbirths :	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	–	–	–
Total	4	3	7

Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 26

Deaths :	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
	93	143	236

Crude corrected death rate all causes per 1,000 estimated population	13.7
Adjusted death rate all causes per 1,000 estimated population	9.9
Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.06
Death rate from Tuberculosis all forms	0.06
Death rate from Respiratory Diseases excluding Tuberculosis and including Influenza	1.39
Death rate from Cancer	1.57
Death rate from Heart and Circulatory Diseases	6.20

Infant Mortality :	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	1	–	1
Total	5	1	6

Death rate of Infants per 1,000 live births .. 22.9

DEATH STATISTICS

CAUSE OF DEATH

Cause of Death	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	–	1
Syphilitic Disease	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	1	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	6	–	6
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	–	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	–	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	9	15
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	26	33
Coronary Disease—Angina	15	16	31
Hypertension with Heart Disease	7	6	13
Other Heart Disease	18	39	57
Other Circulatory Disease	2	4	6
Influenza	–	2	2
Pneumonia	3	8	11
Bronchitis	9	1	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	–	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	3	5
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	7	13	20
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	–	2
All Other Accidents	1	4	5
Suicide	1	2	3
All Causes	93	143	236

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	1	–	1
Total	5	1	6

DEATHS UNDER 4 WEEKS

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	3	–	3
Illegitimate	1	–	1
Total	4	–	4

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLE

	Ilkley Urban District	Aggregate of West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Administrative County	England and Wales
Birth Rate : (Per 1,000 Estimated Population)				
Crude corrected Rate ..	15.2	15.8	16.4	15.7
Adjusted Rate ..	16.3	16.0	16.5	—
Death Rate : (Per 1,000 Estimated Population)				
All Causes Crude Rate	13.7	12.6	11.8	11.7
All Causes Adjusted Rate	9.9	13.1	12.9	—
Infective and Paraisitic Diseases (excluding T.B. but including Syphilis and other Venereal Diseases) ..	.23	0.07	0.07	†
T.B. of Respiratory System	.06	0.11	0.11	0.11
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	0.01	0.02	0.01
Respiratory Diseases* (excluding T.B. of Respiratory System)	1.39	1.37	1.29	†
Cancer	1.57	2.05	1.89	2.08
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	6.20	4.76	4.47	†
Infant Mortality ..	22.9	25.9	27.1	23.8
Maternal Mortality ..	—	0.69	0.52	0.56

* Including Influenza.

† Figures not available.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Staff

The impending amalgamation of Divisions 5 and 6 has had an unsettling effect on the staff and two experienced clerks left during the year. Adequate filling of vacancies on a temporary basis has been difficult, indeed, at the end of the year there was only one member of the clerical staff with more than three years experience in a Public Health Department.

Ambulance and Laboratory Services

The ambulance arrangements continue unaltered and full co-operation is afforded by that service.

Laboratory facilities also remain as in previous years but all bacteriological specimens are now sent to the Bradford Laboratory and this arrangement proved very satisfactory.

Hospitals and Maternity Homes

On 1st October a twenty bed geriatric unit was opened at Middleton Hospital. At the year end this had been expanded to forty beds and plans for still further expansion were going forward. The need for such beds is great and the provision of this accommodation is gratifying when one reflects that it was made possible by the reduced demand for tuberculosis beds.

SECTION III

Infectious Diseases

The total of 119 notifications received during 1956 is not the lowest in recent years, but it is considerably lower than the figure for 1955 which was 332.

Rise and fall in the incidence of infectious disease is linked mainly to the variation of susceptibility and immunity to measles among young children. The fall in notifications of measles from 259 in 1955 to 1 in 1956 was numerically offset by the greater number of whooping cough notifications in 1956 as compared with the previous year.

Measles

The incidence of this disease ran true to expectations showing comparative absence after the 1955 epidemic.

Whooping Cough

This disease was mildly epidemic during the year. The 65 cases notified is a marked increase over the notifications for 1955. None of the cases recorded had previously received immunisation against the disease.

Diphtheria

Remarks concerning this disease in last year's report are equally true for 1956. No cases were notified but reference should still be made to a disease which, after being so disastrous in the past, has been controlled by persistence in protective measures against it. We must not lose sight of the importance of immunisation.

Scarlet Fever

This disease shows a slight increase over the previous year. January was the month with the biggest number of cases (16) but this apart, the incidence of the disease was spasmodic. All cases were of the mild type.

Dysentery

The two cases reported occurred seven months apart and both cleared without revealing the source of infection.

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Infectious Diseases	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year Total
Scarlet Fever	16	–	6	2	6	3	–	–	–	4	2	–	39
Dysentery	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	2
Pneumonia	1	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2
Whooping Cough	–	–	–	17	7	3	10	4	4	3	9	8	65
Food Poisoning	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	2
Staphyloccocal Meningitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Measles	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Totals	18	5	7	19	14	6	14	5	4	8	11	8	119

TABLE SHOWING CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, ILKLEY

	Scarlet Fever		Dysentery		Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles		Whooping Cough		Erysipelas		Meningo-coccal Infection		Food Poisoning	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally Notified—	24	15	1	1	2	4	2	–	1	30	34	–	1	–	1	1	1
Final Nos. after correction																	
0— 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
1— 2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
2— 3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
3— 4	7	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	4	–	–	–	–	1	–
4— 5	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	6	–	–	–	–	–	–
5—10	13	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	19	13	–	–	–	–	–	–
10—15	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
15—20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
20—35	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
35—45	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
45—65	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	1
65 and over	–	–	1	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Age unknown	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTALS ..	24	1	1	1	2	4	2	–	1	31	34	–	1	–	1	1	1

SECTION IV

TUBERCULOSIS

It is pleasing to record an improvement over last year in a still further reduction of notifications. The report for 1955 included the lowest number of new cases so far recorded. The year 1956 shows a further reduction to 6 cases. All except one were adults and in five cases out of the six the disease was localised in the lungs. Additions to the register were, however, more than the removals and in consequence there is a slightly higher number of cases on the register at the year end.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number on Register at 1/1/56	46	32	8	5
Number of cases notified for first time in 1956 ..	3	2	–	1
Number of cases restored to register	–	1	–	–
Number of cases added to register other than by notification	3	2	–	–
Number of cases removed from register	6	2	–	1
Number of cases remaining on register	46	35	8	5

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING 1956

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 5	–	–	–	–
6—10	–	1	–	–
11—20	–	–	–	–
21—40	1	1	–	1
41—60	1	–	–	–
Over 60	1	–	–	–
TOTALS	3	2	–	1

DIVISIONAL ADMINISTRATION — PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

CARE OF MOTHERS & YOUNG CHILDREN

Births to Mothers resident in the Division during the year

	Live	Still	Total
Domiciliary	97	1	98
Nursing Home	23	–	23
Hospital	222	8	230
Maternity Home	147	1	148
Total	489	10	499

Maternity Home and Hospital confinements took place mainly within the Division but a proportion of these and all the Nursing Home confinements were outside the Division.

Midwifery

Midwives supervised by the Divisional Medical Officer were present at confinements as follows :-

	As Midwife	As Maternity Nurse	Total
Domiciliary ..	86	9	95
Institutional ..	653	–	653
Total ..	739	9	748

Medical Aid

Medical aid was sought by Midwives in the Division on 222 occasions. Emergencies due to complications were as follows :-

	Pregnancy	Labour	Lying In	The Child	Total
Institutional ..	6	170	9	8	193
Domiciliary ..	5	13	5	6	29
Total ..	11	183	14	14	222

Other Notifications under the Midwives Acts

Death of Child	7
Stillbirth	6
Substitution of Artificial Feeding	75
Liability to be a source of infection	*31
* The conditions reported in these cases were :-	
Puerperal Pyrexia of undefined origin	17
Influenza	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4

Analgesia in Childbirth

Of the midwives practising in the Division, six domiciliary and five institutional are qualified to administer analgesia.

Each domiciliary midwife is equipped with a gas and air machine and receives issues of pethidine from the Divisional Medical Officer.

During the year cases of domiciliary confinements were given analgesia as follows :-

	Pethidine only	Gas & Air		Trilene	
		Alone	with Pethidine	Alone	with Pethidine
Doctor Present..	–	4	1	–	1
Doctor not present	5	28	36	–	–

Ante-Natal Services

Regular clinics for ante-natal examinations are conducted by the domiciliary midwives. During the year they were utilised as shown.

	Sessions per month	Women seen	New cases	Total attendances
Otley	8	57	49	486
Ilkley	4	87	69	786
Burley	4	38	32	255
All Clinics ..	16	182	150	1527

There were also six attendances by appointment to see the clinic Medical Officer. Apart from the usual clinical services Health Education and relaxation exercises are undertaken.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Clinic	Session per Month	No. of 1st attenders under 1 yr.	Attenders born—			Total Attenders	Total Attendances
			1956	1955	1954-1951		
Otley ..	4	126	115	84	74	273	3035
Ilkley ..	4	87	85	74	111	270	2183
Burley ..	4	56	55	46	55	156	1603
Menston	2	27	26	18	38	82	621
Bramhope	2	25	19	29	42	90	646
Pool ..	2	15	12	10	9	31	190
Total ..	18	336	312	261	329	902	8278

Health Visiting

During the year Health Visitors were present at 651 clinic sessions. Their most important duty, however, is that of domiciliary visiting and the following figures give an account of this work.

Total Visits by Health Visitors during the Year.

Expectant Mothers	Children under 1 year of age	Children aged 1 and under 2	Children aged 2 but under 5 years	Tuberculous households	Other Cases	Total No. of families or households visited by Health Visitors	Total No. of ineffective visits made during year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
574	3320	1978	2887	310	3927	2480	1473

Home Nursing

Only detailed knowledge and close contact could reveal the nature and extent of this important health service. Its value cannot be adequately measured in figures and the following table, is therefore, only offered as a guide.

Total cases attended 985
(including 213 for injections only)

Total visits paid 23,638
(including 6,018 for injections only)

The total visits included 665 for the administration of antibiotics.

	Cases	Visits		
Ilkley ..	138	4284		
Otley ..	290	5134		
Burley ..	153	3853		
Menston ..	59	1442		
Wharfedale ..	126	2507		
Divisional relief nurse ..	6	400	Injections only Cases	Visits
Division ..	772	17620	213	6018

Domestic Help

The demands on this service and the available labour supply are constantly changing. Each week the work requires at least some replanning to maintain a smooth running and adequate service. At the year end there were 51 part time home helps in the Division. There was, as already indicated, some variation in this figure over the year and the over-all strength in terms of whole-time workers was 10.8. The authorised strength was 12 for the first three-quarters and 14 for the last quarter.

Type of case	No. of cases	No. of hours
Maternity	27	1307¾
Chronic sick, aged ..	157	20527¾
Chronic sick, others ..	21	1639¼
Other cases	17	1277
Total	222	24751¾

Prevention of Tuberculosis

The state of the tuberculosis register and the number of new notifications are already recorded earlier in this report.

The work done by Mass Radiography and the B.C.G. Vaccination of school children are truly preventive measures, but the effectiveness of these services is, to some extent, regulated by the non-consenting public. Where cases of tuberculosis are known to exist the Health Visitor is again the functionary whose work is all important in tracing, and securing the examination of contacts, reporting to the Medical Officer of Health and the Chest Physician on the patient's environment and ensuring the continuity of out-patient treatment when this is prescribed.

Out-patients are provided with free milk on the Chest Physician's recommendation.

Cases already receiving free milk on 1/1/56 ..	18
New cases added during the year	14
Grants discontinued	16
Cases receiving free milk on 31/12/56	16

Institutional Treatment

	Respiratory Cases				Non-Respiratory Cases			
	Adult		Child		Adult		Child	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Admitted	11	8	–	1	1	1	1	–
Discharged or died	9	11	–	2	1	1	1	–

Mass Radiography

Total Examinations	Abnormalities Found: Tuberulosis Active	Tuberulosis Inactive	Other Conditions	Total
3050 ..	8 ..	10 ..	12 ..	30

B.C.G. Vaccination

Vaccination of Contacts ..	Males	10
..	Females	11
		21

B.C.G. Vaccination of 13-year-old school children

There were 343 children in the eligible age group and vaccination was offered to all. Parents of 256 of these children accepted. Only 235 presented themselves for the initial test and of these 152 were found to require protective vaccination. The final number of attenders for vaccination was 144.

Vaccination and Immunisation

The most notable feature of the work under this heading was the commencement of vaccination against Poliomyelitis. Parents of all children born in the years 1947—1954 were circularised and forms of consent were returned for 1,537 children, approximately 40% of the children in the age group. During the year 183 vaccinations were carried out.

Protective treatment against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox was as follows :-

Diphtheria primary immunisations	387
Diphtheria refresher immunisations	292
Whooping Cough inoculations	271
Smallpox primary vaccinations	301
Smallpox re-vaccinations..	84

Care of the Aged

Alleviation of health problems and the weight of domestic work are the care of the Home Nursing and Home Help services. These services do not, however, solve the problem of providing an interest for old people in a world so much pleasanter for those capable of work.

People with common problems tend to form themselves into communities and from this the suggestion is naturally evolved for the creation of colonies where old people can live in small and easily worked houses with certain services laid on through a warden resident in a centrally placed dwelling.

Such a plan is under the initial handicap that more than one authority must be consulted before it can be implemented. Physical environment is the concern of the Housing Authority who, in considering the financial angle wilt look to the Welfare Authority for assistance. The actual organisation should be the responsibility of the Medical Officer under whose supervision the scheme would function. Segregation of the aged would undoubtedly solve many of the administrative aspects of this problem. It must, however, be borne in mind that the best solution of the problem will have full regard for the strong spirit of independence found among older people.

ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
LITTLE LANE,
ILKLEY.

June, 1957.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration a brief review of the Sanitary Administration and the Environmental Health Services of the Urban District for 1956.

The year has been one of steady progress with little of outstanding importance. Steps were taken to solve the long outstanding problem of inadequacy of refuse disposal facilities, a matter which has been exercising the minds of the Health Committee for the past few years, and negotiations were commenced for the purchase of land adjoining the existing tip at Poorfields, Sun Lane, Burley. The use of this land for the disposal of the district's refuse will tide the Department over for the next 12 to 15 years, but it is unfortunate that no further steps can be taken to extend the tip at Cocken End, Ilkley, as the time spent in haulage to Burley reduces the time occupied on refuse collection work.

Although the sewering of the whole of the Chevin End and Woodhead districts did not receive support from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, approval to the sewering of a small area at Chevin End was subsequently obtained. The unsatisfactory sewage disposal facilities in these areas have become a "Hardy Annual" in these reports, and it now appears that main sewerage schemes for these areas must be postponed indefinitely.

Practical steps have been taken to supplement the provisions of the new Housing Acts, and whilst no large slum clearance schemes have been begun or are indeed necessary, 16 individual unfit houses have been dealt with by Closing Orders or Demolition Orders during the year.

In connection with the safety of food supplies, every endeavour has been made to maintain the regular supervision and ensure a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness at food premises. Inspection of food animals slaughtered in the Urban District has been continued throughout the year and it is emphasised that post-mortem inspection of every animal slaughtered is the strict rule at the Public Abattoir and at the Scalebor Park private slaughterhouse. A significant feature in the statistics in the section dealing with the meat inspection service is the gradual fall in the incidence of Tuberculosis in food animals and in the quantity of meat and offals condemned for this and other unsound conditions—the latter being some indication of the high quality of the animals slaughtered in the area.

Throughout the year the hygienic and food value standards of milk and ice-cream sold in the area have been maintained at a satisfactory level ; the incidence of infestation by insect pests has remained at a remarkably low level ; and the salvage collection and disposal work of the Department has been reasonably successful, in the face of falling markets. The sale of recovered waste paper realised £1,965, whilst the total income from all recoveries by the end of the year was £2,122.

Statistics, etc., in connection with food premises and shops have again been included and it is hoped that the information will be of interest not only to the Council but also to local organisations.

I wish to record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has been accorded to me by the Chairman and Members of the Council, and in particular by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, whose sympathetic understanding of my many problems and progressive attitude towards the work of the Department have encouraged my efforts.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without reference to the retirement of Dr. R. A. W. Procter, who had been Divisional Medical Officer of Health for the past 9 years, and to express my sincere appreciation of the co-operation and assistance which Dr. Procter was always ready to give. This close association was a very happy one and all members of this Department wish Dr. Procter a long and happy retirement.

These introductory remarks also enable me to acknowledge the able and conscientious assistance of my Deputy, Mr. R. S. Dykes. In these days of acute shortage of technical staff, the Department is fortunate in retaining the services of Mr. Dykes, whose competent efforts have done much to maintain the high standard of environmental health enjoyed by this District. I am grateful too for the general assistance from Mr. R. A. Lister, Sanitary Foreman, and especially for his work in the supervision of workmen engaged upon the essential services of refuse collection and disposal, street cleansing, etc. I am also indebted to fellow chief officers for their support.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. H. WILSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION I

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(1) MILK

So far as practicable within the limits of existing legislative control, the Department has sought by sampling and supervision of premises, etc., to ensure a clean, safe and unadulterated supply of milk. 65 samples were taken as a check upon cleanliness in production and distribution, efficiency of processing, for evidence of adulteration and for the presence of pathogenic organisms.

The number of complaints as to the quality of the milk supply of the area has been negligible and the increased production and sale of designated milks has undoubtedly contributed to this improvement.

(*a*) Bacteriological Examination

28 Samples were taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test, a test which indicates the probable keeping quality of the milk. 2 (or 7.1%) were unsatisfactory, and one was milk produced on a farm within the Urban area. Investigation at producers' premises following unsatisfactory samples, formerly the work of the local Sanitary Authority, is now carried out by Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who took over powers of supervision of milk production at dairy farms in 1949.

(*b*) Biological Tests

8 Samples of milk were taken for the purpose of examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli and all proved negative to the tests.

(*c*) Heat Treatment

During 1956 there were two dairy premises in the Urban District properly equipped and licensed for the heat treatment of milk. At the Ilkley dairy the milk is heat treated by the High-Temperature Short-Time method (H.T.S.T.), and the plant is capable of dealing with 600 gallons per hour. In addition to modern mechanical equipment for bottle washing and filling, etc., this dairy possesses an up-to-date laboratory in which samples of milk supplies to the dairy are tested daily for quality and keeping properties. The Burley dairy, where the Holder process of pasteurisation is operated, ceased to operate before the end of the year.

In addition to heat treatment at local dairies, a quantity of pasteurised and sterilised milk is retailed in the district by distributors whose registered premises are situated in neighbouring urban and rural areas.

During the course of the year 14 samples were submitted for examination and all were found to satisfy the prescribed tests as to keeping quality and adequacy of heat treatment.

(*d*) Adulteration

15 Samples of milk were taken in course of delivery from producers and vendors for detection of adulteration. The Analyst reported that in all instances the milk was of the nature, substance and quality demanded by the purchaser.

The average fat content of the 15 samples is 3.62% with solids-not-fat 8.7%. (1955—fat 3.6% and solids-not-fat 8.8%).

(*e*) Designated Milk

During recent years the production and sale of designated milk has greatly increased in the area and it is gratifying to report that of the 32 milk producing

farms in the Urban District, 19 (or 60%) are licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

By an Order made by the Ministry of Food in March, 1955, all milk sold by retail must be "Specially Designated," that is, pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested. This Urban District is included in the Leeds and District area which comprises the City of Leeds, the Urban Districts of Aireborough, Horsforth, Ilkley and Otley and the Rural District of Wharfedale. The only raw or untreated milk to be sold is tuberculin tested, the remainder being heat treated, that is, pasteurised or sterilised milk.

The licensing of local milk distributors for the retail sale of designated milk is a duty of this local authority and the number of licences issued by the Council during the year is as follows :-

Dealer's licences to retail " Tuberculin Tested " Milk ..	20
Dealer's licences to retail " Pasteurised " Milk	9
Supplementary licences to retail " Pasteurised " Milk ..	5
Supplementary licences to retail " Sterilised " Milk	4
Supplementary licences to retail " Tuberculin Tested " Milk	3

(*f*) Dairies and Milkshops

Regular inspection of these premises has been maintained and throughout the year the standard of cleanliness in local dairies has been consistently satisfactory.

At the end of the year there were 5 premises registered as dairies and 17 milk retailers registered as distributors. In four cases distributors use the registered premises of other producers or retailers for the cleansing and storage of cans, bottles, and other utensils, and for the storage of milk. Eight distributors registered use dairies outside the Urban District.

(2) MEAT

(a) Meat Inspection

The post-mortem inspection of the carcases, organs, and offals of all food animals brought for slaughter to the Public Abattoir is carried out by your Public Health Officers.

In June, 1954, the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order which had been in force since 1940 was rescinded, and meat released from rationing. To the close of 1956, 2½ years of " Free " trade has been enjoyed by the local butchers, and it is apparent from the greatly reduced quantity of meat and offals condemned that a very high class of animal and grade of meat is being obtained by those butchers who use the facilities at the Abattoir.

During control by the Ministry of Food, the meat for 27 shops (24 butchers) was allocated by the Ministry from the Public Abattoir. These included 15 butchers' shops in Ilkley, 6 in Burley, 3 in Menston and 3 in Addingham (in the Skipton Rural area).

During 1956, however, only 13 of the 24 butchers were regularly using the public abattoir for the slaughter of food animals. Of the remainder, 5 of the multiple firms obtained their meat from their own slaughterhouses in other areas or bought in the wholesale market, and 4 butchers used slaughterhouses in adjoining districts. In some cases butchers continued to use the abattoir, but on a greatly reduced scale and made up the deficit by purchase in the wholesale market. The Council were forced to reconsider the scale of slaughtering charges fixed in 1955, and an increase of one-third upon the present fees was subsequently made early in 1956, though it was recognised that these increases would still not balance income and expenditure.

The following figures indicate, month by month, the number and type of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir.

	Bovines	*Sheep*	*Calves*	*Pigs*
January	57	347	9	124
February	66	290	12	112
March	52	202	11	87
April	55	144	7	78
May	54	164	6	94
June	44	183	3	46
July	51	275	7	36
August	60	423	14	55
September	60	372	15	84
October	103	538	16	119
November	82	410	13	106
December	65	247	13	185
	749	3595	126	1,126
	(716)	(3222)	(243)	(1,626)

Comparative figures for 1955 are given in brackets beneath each class of animal, and it will be noted that the total this year of 5,596 is 211 (3.6%) less than 1955 and 1,260 (18.4%) less than 1954.

The following table, given in the form requested by the Ministry of Health, shows the number of cases in which diseased and unsound conditions were found in food animals at the Abattoir.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	674	75	126	3,595	1,126	Nil
Number inspected ..	674	75	126	3,595	1,126	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI Whole carcases condemned	1	—	4	4	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	291	31	—	168	121	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	43.2%	41.3%	3.2%	4.8%	10.8%	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY : Whole carcases condemned	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	48	8	—	—	34	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected Tuberculosis ..	7.4%	10.7%	—	—	3%	—
CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the quantities of unsound meat and offals rejected during routine inspections, with the principal causes of condemnation and weight in pounds.

	Bovines		Sheep		Calves		Pigs	
	Meat	Offals	Meat	Offals	Meat	Offals	Meat	Offals
Tuberculosis ..	2,101	1,008	—	—	—	—	429	78
Septicæmia.. ..	330	70	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bone Taint.. ..	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Actinomycosis and Bacillosis ..	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dropsy and/or Emaciation ..	—	—	28	8	—	—	58	10
Extensive Bruising..	206	—	63	17	—	—	12	—
Distomatosis and/or Cirrhosis ..	—	2,272	—	121	—	—	—	49
Johne's Disease ..	—	252	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mammitis	—	63	—	—	—	—	—	—
Local Suppuration..	—	327	—	12	—	—	46	17
Angiomatosis ..	—	47	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moribund	—	—	82	17	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
Immaturity.. ..	—	—	—	—	24	9	—	—
Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	93	26	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	180
	2,791	4,051	173	175	117	35	545	365

A total of 3 2/3rd tons (8,252 lbs.) (1955—6,846 lbs.) of meat was condemned for various diseased and unsound conditions and, as in previous years, one of the greatest causes of loss in butcher's meat, particularly in bovines, is due to Tuberculosis ; the weight of meat and offals affected with this disease represents 43.8% (1955—36.6% ; 1954—60.4%) of the total quantity condemned for all causes.

Localised Tuberculosis, involving the condemnation of certain individual organs, offals or parts of carcases, was found in 56 beasts, representing an incidence of Tuberculosis of 7.5% (1955—9.9% ; 1954—13%) in the total slaughtered. In two cases inspection showed that the disease had reached an advanced stage or had become generalised throughout the lymphatic system or the blood stream, and consequently the entire carcases and offals were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Tuberculosis was, therefore, found in some degree in 58 beasts and the percentage affected is 7.7.

The most prevalent disease in pigs is Pneumonia, though it is unusual to find an animal greatly distressed by the condition, and whilst post-mortem examination has shown that a very high percentage of the lungs of pigs are affected by patches of Lobar Pneumonia, it appears that the disease does not seriously affect the well-being of the animals. Where the inflammation of the lungs is non-septic, there is little or no detrimental effect upon the flesh of the animal and it is only necessary to reject the affected lung tissue.

As in bovines, Tuberculosis is the cause of the greatest wastage of pork at the Abattoir, though in this area at least the incidence of the disease has greatly decreased during the last decade. In the past lesions of Tuberculosis in pigs were commonplace and the incidence of infection was in the region of 50% or more according to the district in which the animals were reared. Of the 1,126 pigs slaughtered and inspected at the Abattoir, only 34 or 3% were affected The disease, though not now common, is still the greatest factor in the loss of pork and offals, the weight of meat and offals affected representing 55.7% (1955—64.7% ; 1954—66.6%) of the total quantity condemned for all causes. In all cases the disease was localised and in an early stage and usually confined to the head and/or intestinal tract, and in no instance was the disease in such an advanced stage of development as to render a carcase and offals totally unfit for human consumption.

Examination of the following records of Tuberculosis found in animals slaughtered at the Abattoir shows that the incidence in pigs has remained at a very low level during recent years, and the incidence in beasts is gradually diminishing.

Incidence of Tuberculosis in Food Animals

	Bovines	*Sheep*	*Calves*	*Pigs*
1946	23.7	—	—	18.1
1947	26.3	—	—	3.6
1948	19.9	—	1.4	1.5
1949	10.96	—	1.45	6.3
1950	20.04	—	0.56	7.8
1951	17.2	—	0.5	5.3
1952	16.4	—	—	2.3
1953	15.8	—	0.7	3.8
1954	13.0	—	1.4	3.6
1955	9.9	—	—	2.6
1956	7.7	—	—	3.0

Whilst Tuberculosis causes the greatest loss of meat, the most common cause of condemnation of offals in beasts and sheep is Distomatosis. This disease, a localised condition found in the liver, is due to an infestation of the bile ducts by parasites. These " Flukes " cause thickening of the bile ducts and hardening of the liver tissue. The incidence of the disease varies considerably with the district in which the animals have been bred and the incidence of the disease in bovines has shown a tendency to increase. It accounted for 53.6% of the total quantity of beast offal rejected (1955—49.2% ; 1954—37.8%). In beasts, fortunately, the disease has little effect upon the condition of the animal, but in sheep is often the cause of serious loss, Dropsy and Emaciation often following heavy infestation of the liver. In only one case, however, did this occur during 1956, resulting in the condemnation of the entire carcase and offals.

41% of all beasts and 4% of all sheep inspected were found to be affected in varying degrees, and this parasitic infestation, though fortunately not communicable to man, often renders the liver totally unfit for human consumption.

The following are particulars of the disease or conditions which involved the condemnation of entire carcases and offals :-

1 Cow	Generalised Tuberculosis.
1 Heifer	Generalised Tuberculosis.
1 Bullock	Septicæmia
1 Sheep	Dropsy and Emaciation due to chronic Distomatosis of the Liver.

2 Sheep	Extensive bruising and lacerations following accident.
2 Sheep	Moribund.
3 Calves	Pyrexia.
1 Calf	Immaturity.
1 Pig	Emaciation.
13	(as compared with 11 in 1955)

There are no suitable facilities in the Urban District for the destruction of condemned meat and offals by incineration, and all diseased meat from the Abattoir is disposed of to Contractors processing and conversion to fertilisers, etc.

(*b*) **Private Slaughterhouses**

Prior to the operation of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, there were four private slaughterhouses and one Public Abattoir in use in the Urban District. Upon the operation of this Order, however, three of the private slaughterhouses were closed and slaughtering of food animals was concentrated at the Council's Public Abattoir, all butcher's meat sold in Ilkley, Burley, Menston and Addingham being dealt with at the Abattoir. The remaining private slaughterhouse which was permitted to operate caters only for the meat used at the Scalebor Park Hospital and no sale to the general public is involved.

During the intervening years, one of the slaughterhouses in Burley was reconstructed and converted to use as a dairy, and the ownership of the private slaughterhouse in Menston changed hands and is now used as a fuel store attached to a private house. The other slaughterhouse in Burley was closed in February, 1955, following the decision of the Council, pursuant to the Slaughterhouses Act of 1954, to refuse renewal of the licence. This decision was subsequently upheld by the Ministry of Food after an Enquiry in Ilkley. A claim for compensation by the owner was agreed and paid by the Council.

Where ample facilities exist, such as at the Public Abattoir, the continuance of the use of private slaughterhouses is not favoured. All slaughtering should be centralised at this Abattoir, where there is standardisation of the business of preparing, housing and slaughtering of animals for human food. At the Abattoir there is proper supervision of all the aspects of meat production including ante-mortem inspection, supervision of methods of slaughtering, the prevention of cruelty, the adequate inspection of all carcases and offals by a qualified inspector immediately after slaughter, and storage of meat in cooling rooms under hygienic conditions, thereby ensuring to the public a fresh meat supply, reliably clean, sound and free from disease. Only by this moderate form of centralisation is it possible to ensure that slaughtering and all methods of preparing meat for human food are carried out under suitable hygienic conditions and that all carcases are properly inspected before being made available for human consumption.

There can be no doubt as to the adequacy of slaughtering facilities at the Council's Public Abattoir, both as regards equipment and accommodation. From 1940 to June, 1954, during " Control " of slaughter by the Ministry of Food, the meat for all butchers (21 with 24 shops) in the Urban District was dealt with at the Council's Abattoir at Ilkley. Further, the meat supply of 3 butchers (with 3 shops) in Addingham in the Skipton Rural Area was also supplied from the Abattoir and at no time during this period was the Abattoir overcrowded or unable to deal with the through-put, and indeed the accommodation was such that a greater number of animals could have been dealt with.

The Scalebor Park Slaughterhouse, where animals are slaughtered for consumption by inmates of the Scalebor Park Institution, continued to operate throughout the year and post-mortem inspection of the carcases and offals of 27 cows, 14 bullocks, 6 heifers, 99 sheep and 22 pigs was carried out. Owing to the fact that slaughter is confined to a high class of animals and to those animals which have passed the Tuberculin Test, only small quantities of offals were found to be in a diseased or unsound condition, the percentage of the number of bovines inspected affected with disease being 42.6%. Two entire carcases and offals, however, were condemned, a bullock for Emaciation and a sheep for Dropsy and Emaciation.

(*c*) Lairage of Animals

Although the Council do not provide pasturage for prolonged lairage of animals, there is ample covered accommodation at the Abattoir for temporary shelter of animals awaiting slaughter. It is now the practice of some butchers to purchase animals at the Auctions in advance of their requirements and to rest them in local pastures for approximately seven days before slaughter. In addition the outside lairage accommodation at the Abattoir has been used for this purpose and there is no doubt that the quality of the dressed carcase has benefited from this rest. Little trouble has been experienced by noise from cattle in the Council's lairage.

(*d*) Transport of Meat

All meat and offals despatched from the Abattoir to the various butchers' shops is transported either in the butchers' vans or in a motor vehicle fitted with specially constructed container. This container is capable of being efficiently closed on all sides, the internal surfaces are metal lined and are capable of being easily cleansed. In general, the transport of meat from the Abattoir is carried out in a satisfactory and hygienic manner.

(*e*) Fatstock Guarantee Scheme, 1956/57.

The Council continued to permit the use of the Public Abattoir as a Deadweight Certification Centre on behalf of the Ministry of Food and the grading and certification of pigs is carried out by the Council's Public Health Officers. Though there has been a marked decrease in the number of pigs slaughtered, a Deadweight Certification Centre in the Urban District has undoubtedly encouraged greater use of the Abattoir for the slaughter of pigs than would normally have been the case, and consequently increased income from slaughtering fees has resulted. The Council are reimbursed for the service by the Ministry of Food according to the number of pigs graded and certificates issued. The use of the Abattoir as a Centre is appreciated by butchers and farmers alike ; the scheme has decided advantages to local pig keepers and has obviated inconvenience and lengthy journeys to Auctions, and during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1956, 54 local producers availed themselves of the facilities provided and 727 pigs were graded and certified, that is, 64.5% of all pigs slaughtered at the Abattoir.

(*f*) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and 1954.

The provisions of these Acts, which are designed to prevent cruelty and unnecessary suffering to animals, were generally well observed during the year.

All animals dealt with at the Abattoir and the Scalebor Park slaughterhouse are stunned prior to slaughter by means of a Captive Bolt " Humane Killer." During the year Electrical Stunning apparatus was installed at the abattoir for the stunning of pigs, sheep and calves. In addition to the humane operation, electric stunning has the advantage of better bleeding of the carcase and absence of " Blood Splashing " in the meat, particularly in pigs.

In accordance with the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act of 1954, all slaughtermen must be licensed by the Council for the slaughter of food animals, and at the end of 1956 there were 32 licensed slaughtermen on the register.

(3) ICE-CREAM

The following are details of registered premises in the Urban District at the close of 1956.

Premises registered for manufacture and sale ..	6
Premises registered for sale only	61
Premises registered for storage only	Nil

Only a small proportion of the ice-cream manufactured in the district is sold at the 61 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream, and the majority of the premises registered only for sale obtain their ice-cream wholesale from manufacturers whose registered premises are situated in other areas. Of the six premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream, only two now carry out the manufacturing process, one being equipped with " Complete Cold Mix " method, which obviates heat treatment of the mix and provision of expensive plant and equipment.

Ice-cream is now regarded not merely as a delicacy, but also as an article of food, and since it is an ideal medium for the growth of micro-organisms and by reason of its potentiality as a means of conveyance of infection by these organisms, special attention is devoted to all ice-cream premises, and particularly to the supervision of methods of manufacture, storage and distribution. As a check upon the efficiency and cleanliness of these methods samples of ice-cream were taken from vendors and manufacturers in the area, the result being expressed in two forms (*a*) Food Value, and (*b*) Cleanliness.

Samples taken from premises registered by the Council for Manufacture and Sale	12
Samples taken from premises registered by the Council for Sale only	13
Samples taken from itinerant vendors whose premises are situated outside the Urban District	3
	28

(*a*) Food Value— Chemical Analysis

The fat content of samples varied from 5.4% to 13.8% with an average of 10.21%. The improvement in the food value of samples has been maintained and will be better appreciated by comparing the fat content of samples taken during the past eleven years.

FAT PERCENTAGES

	Lowest	*Highest*	*Average*
1946	0.25 ..	11.16 ..	3.32
1947	0.14 ..	8.18 ..	2.45
1948	0.04 ..	11.60 ..	4.40
1949	2.37 ..	18.90 ..	7.13
1950	3.52 ..	15.20 ..	8.24
1951	5.32 ..	12.38 ..	8.84
1952	5.76 ..	14.10 ..	8.91
1953	5.10 ..	13.80 ..	10.10
1954	5.49 ..	13.69 ..	10.26
1955	5.20 ..	14.10 ..	10.10
1956	5.40 ..	13.80 ..	10.21

The Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order of 1951 remained in operation and prescribes a minimum composition for ice-cream. The Order provides, with certain exceptions, that ice-cream must contain at least 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids other than fat, and whilst it was intended as an interim standard which it was proposed to improve as supplies of ingredients became more plentiful, no amendment had been made by the close of the year. All samples taken during 1956 were found to reach the required standard, and the foregoing table shows that the average fat percentage is well above the statutory minimum.

(*b*) **Bacterial Quality.**

The 28 samples were also subjected to the Methylene Blue Test, a test which is a measure of the organisms in ice-cream. The number of such organisms is influenced by the degree of cleanliness of utensils and equipment during manufacture, storage and distribution and by the cleanliness and personal habits of manufacturers and vendors.

Grade	*Time taken to reduce*	*Methylene Blue*	*No. of Samples*
1.	4½ hours or more ..	Satisfactory	22
2.	2½ to 4 hours	Satisfactory	4
3.	½ to 2 hours	Fair	2
4.	0 hours	Poor	—

Approximately 90% of the ice-cream sold in this area is in pre-packed form, only a small quantity being dispensed from the open container and there is no doubt that the modern tendency of manufacturers of increased pre-packing of ice-cream has considerably reduced contamination during distribution and sale. The wrappings, incidentally, have added to the litter problem.

(*c*) **Sale of Ice-Cream in the Open Air.**

The regulations formulated by the Health Committee to eliminate the dirty conditions in which bulk or loose ice-cream was being sold from stalls, carts, barrows, motor vehicles, etc., continue to be well observed by itinerant vendors, and the majority of neighbouring local authorities in the West Riding have followed Ilkley's lead and enforce similar requirements in their areas.

Section 79 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, by which local authorities require the registration of hawkers of food and their premises has been adopted by the Council, and this legislation, together with the Order of 1951, establishing a statutory standard of quality for ice-cream, and the Council's requirements in connection with the design and equipment of vehicles, now provide a reasonable measure of control over itinerant vendors who frequent this area during the summer months.

(4) OTHER FOODS

During inspection of premises where food is stored or prepared for sale, and as a result of requests by shopkeepers, etc., quantities of unsound foodstuffs were examined. The type of food dealt with was principally of the tinned variety, and these were found to be " blown " or " springy," and punctured or leaking caused by rusting or by nails having been driven through during packing operations, whilst the contents of others had decomposed due to faulty " tinning," " processing " or " dealing."

Tinned fruit represented 35% of the condemnations made and tinned meat and fish 50%. Condemnation certificates were issued to enable shopkeepers to obtain replacements or credits from wholesalers. Other foodstuffs condemned included sweets and paper packeted foodstuffs contaminated during delivery, liver, sausages and other meat products in the early stages of decomposition, and frozen meat affected with moulds.

No instance of formal seizure of unsound foodstuffs was found to be necessary, and where practicable unsound food was disposed of for the feeding of pigs and poultry.

(5) FOOD PREPARATION, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION

Supervision at premises where food is prepared, stored or sold was continued during the year, particular attention being paid to Catering Establishments and those premises where meat, meat products and fish, etc., are prepared or sold.

Since Ilkley is a holiday resort, it is not surprising that the number of Catering Establishments in the area is greater than that in other districts of similar size or population. The total and the number inspected, however, is not confined to those premises which serve meals to the general public, such as cafes and hotel kitchens, but includes works' and school canteens, kitchens of schools, clubs, Institutions, etc. In general the equipment and conditions in the Catering Establishments were satisfactorily maintained during the year.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, introduced new legislation which has added further to the duties of the Public Health Department. The Hygiene Regulations which came into operation on the 1st January, 1956, introduced stricter and more extensive requirements in respect of (i) the cleanliness of food premises and of apparatus and equipment, (ii) the hygienic handling of food, (iii) the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing, and the action to be taken where they suffer from, or are carriers of, certain infections, (iv) the construction of food premises, the repair and maintenance of food premises, stalls, vehicles, etc., and the facilities to be provided, including the protection of food from risk of contamination during display, etc., and (v) the temperature at which certain foods that are particularly liable to transmit disease are to be kept in food premises. To administer these provisions satisfactorily it is necessary to carry out a detailed survey of all premises in the area which are in any way connected with the sale, distribution or handling of foodstuffs. This detailed survey had at the end of the year not been completed, but preliminary investigations indicated that premises fall short of the requirements principally in the absence of suitable hand-washing facilities, the display of foodstuffs where they are liable to contamination by the general public, etc., and, in certain types of food premises, lack of adequate facilities for foodstuffs to be stored at a suitable temperature.

Bye-laws made under the Food and Drugs Act of 1938 are in operation in the district. These have the object of securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices and conditions in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air.

The following is a summary of the number of premises in the district at which foodstuffs in any form are sold, stored or prepared for sale (other than those already listed under the separate paragraphs, e.g. Dairies, Ice-cream, Food Hawkers and premises, etc.).

Trade	*Ilkley*	*Burley*	*Menston*	*Total*
Bakehouses	11	3	2	16
Catering Establishments	75	16	9	102
Confectionery	33	10	11	54
Fish	9	1	4	14
Fried Fish	6	4	1	11
Greengroceries	32	12	10	54
Groceries	37	19	12	68
Licensed Premises (Intoxicants)	24	8	8	40
Meat and meat products	15	6	3	24
Sugar Confectionery, etc.	63	23	18	104

The number of premises on this list does not necessarily coincide with the number shown in Paragraph 23 (Shops Act). All premises which sell sweets and sugar confectionery have been included under this heading, even though the sale of this commodity is on a small scale and does not constitute the principal business. Similarly, all premises which sell greengroceries are included as dealing in greengroceries, although the principal business may be groceries, etc.

178 or 59% of the 302 shops in the area are concerned in the sale of some form of food or drink.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Surveyor's Department in connection with plans of new buildings or alterations to buildings submitted for consideration by the Town Planning and Buildings Committee, and which are in any way associated with the preparation, storage and distribution of foodstuffs. Such plans are passed to the Chief Public Health Inspector for his observations and for comments upon any instances of non-compliance with Food Hygiene, etc., Acts and Regulations.

(6) HAWKERS OF FOOD AND THEIR PREMISES

The Council have adopted Section 76 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act of 1951, which provides that all hawkers of food and their premises shall be registered by the local authority.

At the close of 1956 the following registrations had been approved by the Council.

	Hawkers	*Premises*
Greengrocers	7 ..	4
Ice-cream	8 ..	–
Bread and Confectionery	1 ..	–
Meat Products	1 ..	–
Wet Fish, Poultry, etc.	2 ..	–
Fried Fish and Chips	1 ..	1

Eight of the Hawkers registered are from neighbouring areas, with the Public Health Officers of which contact is maintained to ensure that storage premises are satisfactory.

On the vehicles of those Hawkers who sell ice-cream, meat products, wet fish and fried fish, it is the Department's practice to require the provision of proper cleansing equipment for hands and utensils, in the form of sink, constant supply of hot water, etc.

(7) OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are two offensive trade processes in the district, both of which are carried out in one building, that is, the Gut Scraping and Tripe Boiling establishment in Cemetery Road, Ilkley. The trades were well conducted during the year, and no complaints were received or nuisance detected during the inspections made.

Bye-Laws under section 108 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the regulation of these trades are in operation in the district.

(8) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Public Cleansing services of Refuse Collection and Disposal and Street Cleansing have each been the subject of special reports to the Health Committee during the year.

The total labour force of the Department is fixed each year by the Council at the special meeting to deal with estimates of income and expenditure, and at the same time the complement of each of the Public Cleansing and other Health Services is defined. Whilst, therefore, each workman is allocated to a particular service, in practice, the majority are not regarded as specialists and must be capable of carrying out any work in the Department. The high cost of labour is a deterrent to an increase in the establishment of workmen to allow for temporary vacancies or absences, though the Department's records show that over the past 5 years the average loss of time through illness, holidays, etc., is 619 working days per year, or the equivalent of a reduction in the available labour force for the Department of $2\frac{1}{3}$ labour units for the whole year. Since deficiencies in refuse collection staff are supplemented by street sweepers, the general effect is that the number of men available for street cleansing is on the average more than 2 men short throughout the year.

Further, the absence of the Slaughterhouse Attendant, Conveniences Attendant, Tipmen, etc., is made good, not by hiring additional labour, but by transferring members of the existing staff of sweepers or refuse collectors.

(*a*) Refuse Collection

The collection and removal of house refuse is carried out entirely by the Cleansing staff of the Health Department, and no work is let to private contractors. No charge is made for the removal of trade refuse from shops and business premises, but the Department does not remove builders' and contractor's refuse, nor is responsibility accepted for garden refuse. A charge, based upon the cost of the labour and haulage involved, is made for any accumulations of extra refuse such as those which occur upon the change of tenancy or ownership of residential or business premises. The removal of these extra accumulations, however, is not encouraged since special collections of this kind interfere with routine and retard normal collections.

With the exception of a small number of privies, ashpits and pail closets at outlying houses and farms, refuse is stored, pending collection, in metal dustbins of standard size and pattern approximately 8,000 such containers being emptied during each complete collection round. Three double-cab " Chelsea " type S. & D. Freighters, each with a capacity of 11.3 cubic yards, are used for the collection of refuse. In the Burley Woodhead area, where some premises are inaccessible to the Freighters, a specially designed cart is used for the collection of refuse and the contents of privies and pails. This cart, which was formerly drawn by a horse, is now used in conjunction with a motor tractor, and the new arrangement has proved a more economical and expeditious method of collection. Except for isolated occasions due to snow and severe frost conditions, these premises have enjoyed a weekly collection of refuse, etc., throughout the year.

Each of the three refuse collection vehicles is manned by a driver and four men, and the average period between collections of refuse throughout the year has been 10 to 11 days. Despite severe winter conditions, at no time was collection suspended, though on occasions access to certain premises in the higher parts of the area was necessarily delayed.

The distinctive feature of this district so far as refuse collection is concerned is the excessive length of " carry " for each bin, the average distance from the roadway and vehicle to the bin being 24 yards. The absence of extensive blocks

of terrace houses, together with the hilly nature of some parts of the district with steep drives, pathways and steps, militates against a speedy rate of collection, and in some places there is a decided element of danger to a collector with a full receptacle on his shoulders. It will be appreciated that the work of refuse collection is a young man's job, and every endeavour is made to employ on refuse collection only men who are young, healthy and free from physical deformity, as this arduous service involves severe physical effort over long periods. In view of this and the difficulty of recruiting suitable men for the work, the rate of pay is higher than that of the normal labourer.

(*b*) **Refuse Disposal**

During 1956 all house refuse collected in the Urban District was disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites, one at Poorfields, Sun Lane, Burley, and one at Cocken End, Skipton Road, Ilkley. Street Sweepings and the residue from the cleansing of street gullies are also brought to these tips.

The problem of future disposal of refuse in the Urban District was again under consideration during the year, and the recommendation of the Chief Public Health Inspector in respect of extension of the existing tip at Sun Lane, Burley, on to adjoining land, was approved. This site should provide accommodation for disposal of refuse for a further 15 years, and negotiations for its purchase were in progress at the end of the year. Satisfactory arrangements had also been completed for the use of a small quarry known as West Chevin Delph in the Otley Urban area, and sanction from the Leeds Regional Hospital Board had been obtained for the use of the disused railway cutting at Menston. These two sites, however, are comparatively small and are to be retained for emergency use. The Council also completed successul negotiations with the quarry owners at Esscroft to use a disused part of the gravel quarry for the tipping of clean material.

At the end of the year the tip at Cocken End was almost filled, and the Burial Board, Moor and Parks Committee agreed to accept future control of this site and it is anticipated that it will eventually be planted with trees.

Each of the two men employed in refuse disposal duties has received a fortnight's training in controlled tipping at the Bradford Corporation tips. Difficulties have continued throughout the year as a result of unauthorised and indiscriminate tipping at the refuse tips. Gates are provided, fences have been strengthened, and notice boards erected at both tips as a warning to trespassers, but several instances of unauthorised tipping have occurred. It is most difficult under these conditions to maintain controlled tipping and preserve a tidy appearance, and at Sun Lane, indiscriminate tipping has occurred in the land and approaches to and adjoining the tip. To prevent this the Council have approached the users of the private lane for permission to erect a gate and stile and restrict access to the lane by vehicles, etc. The Department does not now permit any person to deposit refuse, spoil or other material on the tips unless the tipmen are present, and whilst this has occasionally caused some inconvenience to contractors and others by the necessity for longer haulage, it is only by this means that the tips can be properly controlled.

Plentiful covering material is essential to the proper operation of controlled tipping and difficulty was encountered in maintaining a regular and ample supply of this material. Occasionally arrangements had to be made to hire haulage to obtain accumulations of ashes and clinkers, and on many occasions this material had to be collected by the refuse collection vehicles, though time taken in this operation had an adverse effect upon the refuse collection service.

At the Sun Lane tip, where trouble was experienced from flooding during the winter months, further works of drainage were carried out during the year.

CLEANSING OF STREET GULLIES



FORMER METHOD



MODERN METHOD

(*c*) Salvage Collection and Disposal

Salvage is collected on the refuse collection round and is stored separately in trailers attached to the refuse collection vehicle.

The recovery of salvage continued to be an important function of the Department throughout the year, and the income from sales, particularly of waste paper, provides a welcome contribution towards the cost of the refuse collection and disposal services. During the war years when the scarcity of raw materials made the recovery of salvage a vital necessity, the target aimed at by each local authority was one ton of waste paper per 1,000 of the population per month, and the monthly target for Ilkley was, therefore, 17 tons. It is gratifying to report that the majority of householders, shopkeepers and others have so responded to the appeals for salvage that the average monthly figure for 1956 was 24½ tons (1955—25 tons). Greater quantities of paper are now available, however, newspapers and magazines are larger and more plentiful and the use of cardboard for packages is more prevalent, and the target of 17 tons is easier to reach.

Observations on the collection round and during the disposal and tipping of refuse, however, clearly show that substantial quantities of waste paper are being wasted. A great deal of paper in the form of newspapers, cardboard boxes, etc., is being placed in the dustbins and once this material is mixed with other household refuse, particularly wet refuse, its recovery on the tip face is impracticable. Sacks are issued as an incentive to householders and others to keep waste paper separate from the other domestic rubbish, whilst the operation of a Bonus Scheme for the workmen also stimulates the recovery of increased quantities of waste paper and other materials of value. In the early part of the year, however, the Government's restriction on credit had an adverse effect on the waste paper market and the Paper Mills introduced a limit upon the intake of baled waste paper. This did not, however, have a serious effect upon the Department's output.

All salvage is dealt with at the Depot in Railway Road, Ilkley, and during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1956, £2,122 has been realised from the sale of 311 tons of miscellaneous salvage (1955—£2,558 from 326 tons), the most lucrative commodity being waste paper, 294 tons being sold for £1,965. The cost to the Council of salvage collection and disposal is comparatively small ; the expenses of collection are negligible, the material being obtained during refuse collection, whilst labour involved in its disposal is reduced to a minimum. The whole of the sorting and baling of paper, together with other work in connection with rags, carpets, scrap metals, etc., was formerly carried out by one man, but the yield of waste paper has so increased in the past year or two that it has been necessary to employ additional part-time labour. This work is now being done by one of the sweepers as and when stocks of paper warrant his assistance. Two electrically driven presses are in use for the baling of rags and paper.

It is interesting to note that since 1940, 3,259 tons of waste paper have been salvaged and sold, whilst the total income from all salvage is £31,000.

(*d*) Street Cleansing

Street Cleansing is under the control of the Public Health Department and the service includes, in addition to the removal of street refuse, the clearing of sand, chippings, etc., and grit resulting from attrition of road surfaces, together with the weeding of channels and pathways.

The normal routine work of street sweeping is carried out by seven manual workers and one Karrier Yorkshire mechanical sweeper. Five of the men are employed in the Ilkley area, one in Burley and one in Menston. The mechanical sweeper is engaged upon a regular rota of sweeping which includes the classified roads under the control of the West Riding County Council Highways Department.

The men in Burley and Menston are each provided with a Street Orderly cart and under ordinary circumstances this labour force has been found to be adequate to keep the highways in these areas in a clean and tidy state. In Ilkley, however, owing to the policy of using sweepers to make good absences of refuse collectors, the street cleansing service, particularly during the summer months, was unsatisfactory. The employment of street sweepers to replace refuse collectors absent due to illness or holidays naturally depleted the staff available for sweeping and weeding, and this reduced labour force has not been able to keep pace with the growth of weeds in the area during the summer months. Owing to the untidy state of many of the roads and footpaths in the district during the early summer, the Council followed the procedure of the previous two years and employed volunteer refuse collectors and other men in the Department to carry out weeding during the evenings. This scheme has proved to be a satisfactory solution to the shortage of labour during the "Weeding" period.

The Karrier Bantam refuse collection vehicle is used for the picking up of street sweepings, as well as being employed as a substitute vehicle during breakdown of a freighter. This machine is an essential utility vehicle, and is also used for extra collections of refuse, collection of covering materials for tips, etc.

In addition to the clearing of the normal day-to-day accumulations of debris, the Department also attend to the removal of dead dogs and cats from the public highways, and from time to time is called upon to remove the carcases of sheep which have died naturally or by accident.

Following snowfalls and hard frosts, when normal street cleansing work is impracticable, the Department's staff of street sweepers is loaned to the Highways Department to assist in snow clearing or sanding and gritting.

The extent of the additional work imposed on the Street Cleansing service as a result of severe winter conditions is probably not fully appreciated. After the thaw all available labour in the Public Health Department is directed to clearing up the gritting material thrown down by the Highways Department, and this must eventually be cleared by the Public Health Department. During the winter period several hundred tons of ashes, gravel and chippings were deposited on roads and footpaths by the Highways Department, and subsequently cleared by the Public Health Department. During January alone, some 500 tons were recovered and this work is repeated after each successive snowfall and thaw. This also added to the work of the mechanical Gully Emptier as some of the grit is washed into the street gullies. Whatever other benefits are derived from the work, the grit and debris cleared up does provide ideal covering material for the Controlled tips.

(9) HOUSING

The enforcement of the provisions of the Housing Acts relating to the inspection of properties for "housing" defects, reports in respect of the closure and demolition of unfit houses, and investigation of overcrowded conditions, etc., are the responsibility of the Public Health Department, and some statistics in connection with this work will be found in Appendices 2 and 4.

Although the majority of the property owners co-operate with the Department in regard to essential repairs to house property, there is the usual hardcore of landlords who disregard informal notices requesting the repair of defects. In many cases this unwillingness on the part of the owners to carry out necessary maintenance work to their property is undoubtedly associated with the limited rents and the increasing cost of building work. The number of cases where informal action failed to secure a remedy, though greater than in 1955, however, is not excessive ; it was necessary for the Council to resort to formal notice in only 16 instances (21% of all informal notices sent), and no court action to enforce compliance with statutory notices has been taken during the year.

The Council have adopted Regulations under Section 12 (2) of the

Housing Act, 1936, in respect of underground rooms, and in addition to their application to occupied basement dwellings, these Regulations are used in the conversion of large buildings, etc., to flats.

It is surprising that tenants have not taken greater advantage of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954, as the number of applications for certificates of disrepair has been less than anticipated, and although the provisions of the Act have been given local and national publicity, this apparent apathy may be due in some cases to uncertainty on the part of the tenants. Though the practical work in connection with this part of the Act has so far been less than expected, a good deal of time has been spent in advising landlords and tenants upon some of the more complicated rent control provisions.

In connection with applications for Improvement Grants this Department works in co-operation with the Surveyor and an inspection of all premises involved in application for grants is made by the Public Health Department. This is to ensure that no grant is made in respect of premises which are included in future slum clearance proposals, as well as to draw attention to structural and other defects in the property. A certificate is given, where appropriate, that the premises, after improvement, should have a useful life of at least 15 years.

As previously reported, the problem of slum clearance, so far as this Urban District is concerned, is not a large one, and the report submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955 indicated that a total of approximately 70 unfit houses would be dealt with during the next five years, by way of closure or demolition, at the rate of approximately 14 per year. During 1956, reports upon the following 16 unfit houses were considered by the Health Committee, and these were all dealt with under the Individual Unfit House procedure of the Housing Acts.

1, Lower Castle Yard, Ilkley	Demolition Order made.
3, Johnson's Yard, Burley :	Closing Order made.
2, Red Lion Cottages, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
4, Red Lion Cottages, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
6, Red Lion Cottages, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
65, Peel Place, Burley :	Closing Order made.
67, Peel Place, Burley :	Closing Order made.
181, West Terrace, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
183, West Terrace, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
185, West Terrace, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
210, West Terrace, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
210a, West Terrace, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
212, West Terrace, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
212a, West Terrace, Burley :	Demolition Order made.
1, Low Fold Cottages, Menston :	Demolition Order made.
2, Low Fold Cottages, Menston :	Demolition Order made.

There is no accurate information available as to the incidence of statutory overcrowding in the area, but the number of cases brought to notice is not unduly high. Four houses were known to be overcrowded at the end of 1955, and one of these cases was relieved during 1956, leaving three outstanding at the close of 1956.

In connection with housing the following statistics are of interest :

During 1956 the erection of 20 new Council houses or flats was completed. Under private enterprise 54 houses were built and 4 houses converted into flats, providing additional accommodation for 8 families.

Since 1945, 420 Council houses, two Bedroom Flats, and Old Persons Flats have been erected. Private building development has contributed 258 houses, and the conversion of 71 large houses has resulted in the provision of 165 flats, making a grand total of 843 new housing units at the close of 1956.

(10) VERMIN INFESTATION CONTROL

(*a*) Rodents

No evidence of undue infestation by rats or mice was found during the course of the year, though several minor infestations were discovered by inspections and after complaints by householders, shopkeepers, etc.

Poison biscuits and bait are distributed free upon personal application to the Public Health Department, and when necessary, advice upon baiting and rat proofing is given on a visit to the site.

The food scraps and organic matter placed in the bins by householders provide a natural attraction to rats, and to prevent major infestation of the tips monthly treatments are carried out with pre-bait and poison. Regular treatments are also carried out at the Council's Sewage Disposal Plants in Ilkley, Ben Rhydding and Burley.

Up-to-date methods and established poisons are used in the disinfestation of properties, the poisons most commonly used being zinc phosphide with rusk or sugar meal, " Warfarin " with rusk and "Antu " with sugar meal. In no case did necessity arise for formal action under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act of 1949, all cases of disinfestation being dealt with by informal notice.

During the year test baits were laid in 69 sewer manholes in different parts of the district. A pre-bait of sausage rusk was used and was laid for three consecutive days. The manholes were kept under observation and it was found that ten lengths of sewer showed evidence of rat infestation. These sewers, and branches in the immediate vicinity, were subsequently treated with poison bait, and as a further precaution a second treatment of poison bait was given later in the year.

37 Premises were treated for infestation by rats and 12 for infestation by mice.

(*b*) Insect Pests

It is gratifying to be in a position to report that infestation of premises by insect pests is becoming difficult to find and whilst it is not possible to declare that insects such as bed bugs have been completely eradicated in the district, only one case of infestation by this pest has come to notice during the last four years. It can, however, be stated with confidence that the incidence of infestation by the more repulsive type of insect pest such as the bed bug and the flea, is very low indeed. The infestation by Bed Bugs found during the year was in one of a block of three houses which were subsequently condemned under the Housing Acts. Certain clothing, furniture and bedding was removed from the house and destroyed and the premises disinfested by Cyanide gas.

With the exception of wasps' nests, when Cyanide is used, the routine method of treatment of infested properties is by the use of D.D.T. or Gammexane preparations ; residual spray (5% D.D.T. with kerosene or other solvent) or Gammexane dispersible powder (P. 520), being most frequently used.

The following are details of insect pests dealt with :

Bed Bugs (*Cimex Lectularius*). One house given preliminary treatment with D.D.T. residual spray and subsequently treated witn H.C.N. gas.

Fleas (*Pulex Irritans.*) One house was treated for infestation by fleas and the insects destroyed by the use of D.D.T. residual spray.

Cockroaches (*Blatella Orientalis.*) Four instances of infestation were dealt with by the use of Gammexane Dispersible Powder.

Crickets (*Gryllus.*) During the Spring and Summer, treatments by Gammexane Dispersible Powder were carried out at the refuse Tips for small infestations by crickets.

Gooseberry Red Spider Mite (*Bryobia Prætiosa.*) This unusual infestation was dealt with at one house. The mite is a horticultural pest which lives on gooseberry bushes, clover and many shrubs and grasses. The adult females hibernate during the winter and sometimes enter houses in considerable numbers in the late summer or autumn to find shelter in cracks of floorboards, cavity

walls, etc. As D.D.T. is ineffective for the control of the mites, the infestation was dealt with by the use of 1% Lindane in kerosene.

Plaster Beetles (*Enicmus.*) These beetles were found on the walls of a new house. The infestation is not uncommon since the beetles feed on the invisible moulds on new plaster. Treatment by insecticides was not necessary as the beetles disappeared when the house had properly dried out.

Wasps and Bees. Three wasps' nests and 1 bee's nest were reported and investigated. Potassium cyanide is used where the nests are in the ground or other inaccessible position. Where, however, the nests are fully exposed and readily accessible, it is found that all that is necessary is to saturate the nests with residual spray and the following day the nests may be removed without danger. An appropriate charge is made for the destruction of wasps' nests upon private property, though the disposal of nests on or immediately adjoining a public highway is carried out free of charge.

(11) SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Practically all the sanitary conveniences of residential and business premises in the area are on the water carriage system. There are, however, a number of pail closets and privies in use at Woodhead, Burley and Moor Lane and Chevin End, Menston, though these will readily convert to water closets when new sewers are constructed. (*See* Drainage and Sewerage.)

The Urban District is now well provided with sanitary accommodation for use by the public, there being twelve blocks of conveniences with accommodation for both sexes. The Council employ one full-time attendant for maintenance and cleansing work of public conveniences at Ilkley, and part-time attendants to deal with the conveniences at Burley and Menston. It is necessary to carry out some supervision at week-ends and bank holidays, particularly during the summer, since it is on these occasions when the conveniences suffer the greatest abuse.

Three blocks of conveniences, formerly under the control of the Parks Superintendent, were transferred to the care of this Department at the end of 1956. These are new conveniences: Kirklands, Menston, Recreation Ground, Burley and Middleton Sports Field. Although these conveniences are not in constant or regular use by the general public they are, strictly speaking, public conveniences, and it is logical that all conveniences for the use of the general public should be under the control of one Department.

(12) SMOKE ABATEMENT

Although there has been some agitation in connection with complaints of smoke and grit emission from one particular industrial premises during the year, the district is not unduly troubled with excessive smoke or grit emission from industrial undertakings. There are few large works or mills in the area and in general the boiler plants at such premises are well managed.

The smoke pollution in the area emanates principally from domestic chimneys and this is clearly demonstrated when the inhabited areas are viewed from a vantage point on the moors or the Cow and Calf.

Bye-Laws made under section 2 of the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, are in operation and provide that " The emission of black smoke for a period of two minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes from any building other than a private dwelling-house shall until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be a nuisance."

Complaints received of smoke and grit referred almost exclusively to a local dairy at which a new boiler and chimney had been installed. Many smoke observations of ½ to 1 hour's duration were made together with tests for grit emission, at different periods during the day and under varying weather conditions. In December, 1956, mutual agreement was reached between the Council and Dairy Company to the effect that the question of the efficiency of the operation of the chimney be submitted to an independent technical expert for his opinion. Mutual agreement was subsequently reached as to the expert to be consulted and it is anticipated that a representative of the National

Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service will be carrying out his tests and inspection early in the new year.

Towards the close of 1956 the Council had under consideration the provisions of the Clean Air Act which came into operation on the 1st January, 1957. This Act gives greater power to Local Authorities in connection with smoke abatement, but some of its provisions, in particular those dealing with Smoke Control Areas, will add considerably to the duties of the Department, to such an extent, in fact, as to be beyond the capacity of the existing staff.

(13) INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION

Disinfection, by formaldehyde gas, of premises after cases of infectious disease, was carried out following the removal of the patients to the Isolation Hospital, or after recovery if nursed at home.

Premises are also disinfected after illness or death from non-infectious disease upon written request, and arrangements are made through this Department for the steam disinfection of bedding, rugs, cushions, etc. Owing to lack of facilities in this area arrangements are made for the steam disinfection of bedding, etc., to be carried out at the Leeds Corporation Disinfecting Plants, transport being provided by the Leeds Corporation Health Department. The actual cost of this service is recovered from the owner in cases of disinfection after a non-notifiable disease or illness.

(14) CAMPING SITES

At the close of 1956 there were 6 established camping sites in the area, five in Burley and 1 in Ilkley.

The Burley sites are all situated in the Woodhead area and contain a total of 71 hutments, whilst in Ilkley the site is used for moveable dwellings only and the number limited to 35.

Though the majority of the semi-permanent hutments on the Burley Woodhead sites are occupied only at week-ends and holiday times, a number of them are used for human habitation all the year round. Apart from their unsatisfactory appearance many of them are unsuitable for this purpose on public health grounds. The sanitary arrangements are primitive, facilities for the disposal of waste and slop water are inadequate, water supplies are taken from moorland springs and the distribution points are some distance from the hutments. The buildings are small and constructed of temporary materials, of which wood predominates, and over the years many off-shoots and appendages have been made to the existing structures which have increased general unsightliness.

This part of Wharfedale has undoubted attractions for the city dweller and it is understandable that a camper will wish to spend his week-ends in the area, though development in the form of additional dwellings and extension of existing hutments on camping sites is not permitted by the Council. There were several instances of the use of private farmland and the river bank at Middleton by isolated caravans, but verbal warnings have been sufficient to secure the removal of the dwellings.

(15) RIVERS AND STREAMS

Several cases of pollution were detected and dealt with during the year. In the majority of cases the pollution was traced to the overflow of cesspools or defective condition of private septic tanks and sewage disposal plants. Many of the cesspools, sumps and septic tanks in the Moor Lane and Woodhead area of Burley are badly designed, and since there is little or no filtration of the effluent, continuous pollution of the streams from Woodhead occurs. In some outlying districts where the extension of the existing sewerage system is unlikely, special attention is devoted to the private disposal arrangements and any new plants constructed must be designed on scientific principles, and be provided with approved mechanical means of distributing the sewage from the septic tank over the filter. Any plans submitted to the Surveyor's Office are passed to this Department for comment before being submitted to the Town Planning and Buildings Committee.

(16) WATER SUPPLIES

(*a*) Public Supply

The control and supervision of the public water supplies is carried out by the Water Engineer.

The water supply of this Urban District is essentially soft in character, being drawn from moorland gathering grounds, and regular treatment is necessary to counteract the acid nature of the water. Routine samples are taken at regular intervals by the Public Health Department for evidence of plumbo-solvent action, the samples being so arranged that the supply from each reservoir is sampled at least twice. The Analyst's reports indicated that plumbo-solvent action was absent in all cases.

(*b*) Private Supplies

The Public Health Department is responsible for the supervision of private water supplies in regard to quality and sufficiency.

Within recent years informal action by the Department has secured connection to the public mains of a number of premises which formerly obtained their water from private sources and at the end of the year there only remained 35 premises throughout the area which obtain water from private sources. 16 of these houses are situated in the Burley Woodhead district, 16 are in Ilkley and 3 in Burley. With one exception, a well in Burley, these premises obtain their domestic supply from deep or surface springs. The number of houses with private supplies, therefore, is very small, and is, in fact only 0.6% of the 5,764 separate dwellings in the Urban District. Statistics of the number of separate dwellings in England and Wales with private water supplies are not available, but in terms of population, aporoximately 3.5% obtain their water from private sources and 96.5% enjoy a piped supply. Comparative figures for the Ilkley Urban District are approximately 0.75% and 99.25% respectively.

Wherever practicable connection with the Council's water main is urged, for whilst there is no evidence of apparent ill effect upon the health of the persons drinking water from the private supplies in the area, it is not possible for an Officer of the Public Health Department to exercise constant supervision, and the danger lies in the possibility that the water may at any time be contaminated by dangerous excremental pollution of human origin.

Samples of water for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination are taken from the private supplies from time to time during the year and a number of minor improvements have been effected at sources of supply, storage tanks, etc.

In addition to the 35 permanent dwellings already mentioned, there are 71 semi-permanent hutments on the Burley Camping Sites which obtain their water from moorland springs.

(17) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Apart from the construction of sewers for the Council's new housing sites, and small extensions to existing sewers in connection with private building developments, etc., no large scale sewerage schemes were commenced during 1956.

During recent years attention has been drawn in these reports to the sanitary arrangements and sewage disposal facilities at Moor Lane and Woodhead, Burley and Moor Lane and Chevin End, Menston, conditions at which are unsatisfactory and prejudicial to health. Following application to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for loan sanction for the extension of sewers at Burley Woodhead and Chevin End, Menston an Enquiry was held in November, 1955, when an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry visited the district and made an inspection of the sites. Following this Enquiry the Minister indicated that he approved of the Burley Woodhead and Chevin End Sewerage Schemes in principle, subject to certain exceptions, but that the degree of need for the proposed scheme appeared to the Minister to be only slight. Having

regard to the appeals from the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, to secure economies wherever possible and to refrain, save in cases of exceptional need, from undertaking new services, which would involve additional expenditure, the Minister requested the Council to consider whether their proposals in this respect should be proceeded with at the present time. Further application was made to the Minister, but in reply the Minister stated that it did not appear that the conditions which the proposals were designed to remedy constituted so serious a danger to public health that he would be justified in agreeing to the sanction of the work at the present time and the Council were asked to postpone work on the scheme until such time as the economic situation improved. After consideration of further reports to the Health Committee, representation was made to the Minister in respect of the sewering of a small portion of this area, namely, the Chevin Avenue area. The Minister agreed that it would be reasonable to proceed with a main sewerage scheme for this area and the necessary plans, specification, etc., are to be prepared and submitted to the Minister in the new year.

The Council adopted the recommendations of the Health Committee to replace the Karrier/Yorkshire mechanical Gully Emptier with a S. & D. 1,100 gallons capacity diesel-powered machine, and delivery of this vehicle is expected early in the new year.

The mechanical gully emptier was operated on a full time basis throughout the year. During periods when it is not employed by the Council the machine is in great demand by the West Riding County Council and the neighbouring Urban District of Otley and the Rural District Councils of Wharfedale and Skipton, for the cleansing of street gullies, cesspools, septic tanks, etc. This machine is one of the greatest assets of the Department from a Public Health viewpoint ; it has enabled essential work to be done at private premises, which by laborious hand methods have been neglected. Its use has obviated the out-of-date, unsightly and insanitary methods of emptying street gullies by hand scoops, and in the absence of pumping equipment, the emptying of various types of sewage tanks by buckets and rope. (*See* accompanying photographs.)

The machine has been used for a wide variety of purposes during the year. including the emptying and cleansing of street gullies, grit chambers, cesspools, septic tanks, petrol oil and grit interceptors, sewer grit chambers, sewer manholes, the flushing of drains and public sewers, the pumping of water from flooded excavations and cellars, and the clearing of Gasworks effluent sumps and residues from gas-holders. This list of work performed by the machine gives some indication of the scope of its use and its value to the Council's environmental health services.

The Department devotes special attention to premises which are not connected to the Council's sewers and sewerage system. The sewage from the majority of these premises is dealt with in cesspools or small disposal plants, which usually consist of a septic tank and filter. These appliances are situated some distance from the premises concerned and are consequently " out of sight and out of mind." It is not unusual therefore to find them in a defective and neglected condition. There are approximately 180 premises in the district which are not connected to the Council's sewerage system.

(18) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act provides , briefly, that a licence must be obtained from the local authority to keep a pet shop, and the authority may arrange for the inspection of licensed pet shops by their officers. Pets are not to be sold in streets or public places except from stalls or barrows in a market and must not be sold to children under 12 years of age.

Of the two premises licensed at the beginning of 1956, the shop in Burley ceased business during the year, but a licence was issued for an additional shop in Ilkley. These premises are well conducted and no instances of unsatisfactory conditions were found.

(19) HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS AND THEIR PREMISES

Section 120 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, is in operation in the area, and provides that no person shall carry on the business of a hairdresser or barber on any premises in the district unless he and those premises are registered by the local authority. There were 26 hairdressers and 24 premises on the register at the close of 1956.

In general the hairdressers and barbers in this area maintain a high standard of cleanliness as regard premises and equipment, and the Bye-Laws for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises, instruments, towels, materials, equipment, etc., and the cleanliness of persons employed were well observed throughout the year.

(20) RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This is an Act to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles and other articles which are stuffed or lined, etc. There are 8 premises registered for upholstering, etc., in pursuance of Section 2, and 8 licences were issued for the storage of rag flock under Section 7.

SECTION III—INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

(21) FACTORIES

Routine inspections of factories have been made under the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948, and in general the provisions of the Acts and the various Orders and Regulations affecting the welfare and comfort of the workers have been complied with.

(22) WORKPLACES AND OFFICES

No special action has been taken.

(23) SHOPS ACT, 1950

In general conditions in shops are satisfactory and apart from informal action in regard to the renewal of internal decorations and the repair and cleansing of sanitary arrangements, no special action was found to be necessary.

The following statistics show the number and types of shops in the Urban District as at 31st December, 1956.

Trade of Business	*Ilkley*	*Burley*	*Menston*	*Total*
Antiques	3	—	—	3
Butchers	15	6	3	24
Carpets and Lino	1	—	—	1
Chemists	5	2	1	8
Children's Outfitters	2	—	—	2
Confectioners	7	3	3	13
Cycle Dealers	2	—	—	2
Drapers	7	—	1	8
Fancy Goods	1	—	—	1
Fishmonger, Game, Poultry	—	1	—	1
Florist, Nurseryman, etc.	2	—	1	3
Footwear	10	2	1	13
Fried Fish	6	4	1	11
Gas Appliances	1	—	—	1
General Stores	1	—	—	1
Gent's Outfitters	5	—	—	5
Glass, China, etc.	1	—	—	1
Gowns, Suits, etc.	2	—	—	2
Greengrocers & Fishmongers	9	—	4	13
Greengrocers & General Goods	—	4	—	4
Grocers	32	14	8	54
Hairdressers	14	3	2	19
House Furnishers	6	1	—	7
Ironmongers, Hardware, etc.	3	—	1	4
Jewellers	4	—	—	4
Knitting Wools, Knitwear	4	—	—	4
Ladies' Wear	12	2	1	15
Leather Goods, Sports Outfitters	1	—	—	1
Milliners	1	—	—	1
Newsagents, Tobacconists, etc.	9	3	2	14
Painters and Decorators	4	2	1	7
Pet Stores	2	—	—	2
Plumbing and Sanitary Appliances	2	2	1	5
Radio, T.V. & Electrical Appliances	10	2	—	12
Second-hand Dealers	1	—	—	1
Stationery	2	1	—	3
Sugar Confectionery, Tobacconists, etc.	16	7	2	25
Tea & Coffee Stores	1	—	—	1
Toys, Sugar Confectionery, Tobacconists	2	—	—	2
Wines and Spirits	3	—	—	3
	209	60	33	302

The list does not include the stalls (Fishmonger and Greengrocer, etc.) which occupy the open market in New Brook Street, Ilkley, for two days each week.

The above list is confined to those which have shop premises where a retail sale takes place, and does not include places which are merely workshops, workplaces, or premises at which the primary business is devoted to transactions

carried out in connection with work done, e.g. Dry Cleaners, Footwear Repairers, etc.

When deciding upon the category in which to place each separate business, an attempt has been made to apply to each shop the most appropriate and comprehensive description, but the classification of some shops presented difficulty in deciding which is the principal business carried on. No attempt has been made, for instance, to separate shops devoting sales chiefly to " Soft Furnishings " from the general description " House Furnishers." A number of Grocers also sell small quantities of greengroceries, sweets and other goods, but since the trade is primarily that of Grocer they have been so classified.

Confusion arises in connection with shops which sell miscellaneous articles such as toys, sweets, newspapers, fancy goods, etc., whilst some shops which deal predominantly in greengroceries also sell fish, game and poultry. Most newsagents and tobacconists also sell sweets and sugar confectionery, any in this respect the lists in Paragraph 5 (Food Preparation, Storage and Distribution), will not coincide with the above—all shops which sell foodstuffs in and form come into the category of Food Premises, and are listed according to the kind of foodstuff sold, whether the retail sale of food is the predominant business or not.

The table indicates that the total number of shops in the Urban District is 302, or one shop per 56 inhabitants in the area. This is well above the average for Great Britain which, it is understood, is one shop per 89 inhabitants.

(24) MISCELLANEOUS

Duties in connection with Petroleum Storage, Hackney Carriages, Game Licences, Mortuary, etc., though not all associated with environmental hygiene and public health, are also included in the work of the Public Health Department.

APPENDICES

The following appendices show, so far as it is possible to do so in the form of tables and statistics, the approximate number of visits, inspections, etc., made, together with improvements carried out in environmental sanitation in dwelling-houses, factories, etc. The information is given in statistical form in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers Regulations. Some imagination is required when considering these tabular statements, however, as mere numbers give little indication either of the volume of work done or the effectiveness of the public health measures taken.

APPENDIX I

RECORDS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Inspections, etc., at :-

Abattoir	384
Bakehouses	38
Catering Establishments	91
Dairies and Milkshops	42
Dairy Farms	12
Dangerous and Dilapidated Structures	6
Entertainment Houses	4
Factories—with mechanical power	53
Factories—without mechanical power	42
Food Preparing, etc., Premises	231
Fried Fish Premises	28
Hairdressers' Premises	17
Houses—re Dirty Conditions	17
—re " Housing " defects, etc.	271
—re Permitted Numbers	3
—re Overcrowding	5
—re Infectious Diseases	29
Houses let-in-lodgings	29
Ice-cream premises	51
Moveable Dwellings	19
Offensive Trade Premises	8
Pet Shops	5
Piggeries	24
Private Slaughterhouses	72
Public Conveniences	45
Schools	22
Shops—re Shops Act	41
Stables	13
Tips and Salvage Depot	401
Workplaces and Offices	5

Visits or inspections re :-

Accumulations (Offensive)	30
Animals, Poultry, Swine, etc.	15
Cellars re dampness and flooding	151
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	134
Drainage Work, Sanitary Appliances	410
Insect Pests	28
Nuisances and Complaints	185
Pollution of Rivers and Streams	32
Rag Flock Act, etc.	8
Rats and Mice Infestations	138
Refuse and Salvage Collection	302
Refuse Storage Accommodation	134
Sanitary Accommodation	37
Smoke Abatement	99
Street Cleansing	158
Unsound Food	31
Water Supplies	26
Miscellaneous	170

APPENDIX 2

(*a*) **Notices**

Notices served—Informal 183. Complied with 178.
Notices served—Statutory 25. Complied with 23.

(*b*)

Animals, Poultry, Swine, etc.,—nuisances abated	9
Basement areas constructed and drained	1
Bath waste pipes renewed	7
Ceilings underdrawn	2
Cellars flooded—remedied	35
Conversions—privies to pails	1
Dampness remedied	93
Dangerous structures removed	1
Defective dustbins replaced	73
Defective yard surfaces relaid	4
Doors repaired	6
Drains relaid, repaired or cleared	111
Eaves gutters cleared	10
Eaves gutters or rainwater pipes repaired	37
Fireplaces, chimneys, etc., renewed or repaired	12
Floors relaid or repaired	7
Fire escapes provided	1
Foodstores provided	1
Handrails repaired/renewed	4
Hard surfaces redrained	3
Houses repainted	2
Insanitary sinks replaced	5
Inspection chamber covers renewed	7
Manure pits constructed and drained	3
Offensive accumulations removed	3
Pails to pail closets renewed	3
Paths repaired	2
Pollution of streams abated	2
Roofs repaired	39
Septic tanks and filters reconstructed	2
Sink waste pipes, renewed, repaired or cleared	15
Skirting boards repaired	7
Soil pipes repaired, renewed	3
Staircases repaired	5
Ventilation improved	2
W.C. cisterns repaired	10
W.C's repaired	4
W.C. Pedestals renewed	4
Wall or ceiling plaster repaired	23
Walls repaired	30
Water service pipes repaired or renewed	7
Windows repaired, sash cords provided, etc.	35

APPENDIX 3

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1938

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	70	53	3	—
Factories without mechanical power	53	42	5	—
Total ..	123	95	8	—

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	5	5	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floor	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :-				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
	8	8	—	—

APPENDIX 4

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health of Housing Acts)	92
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	271
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	NIL
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	NIL
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses needing further action :	
	(*a*)	Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	16
	(*b*)	Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (*a*) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	76

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices : Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers 71

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	NIL
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
	(*a*) By owners	NIL
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	NIL

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(*a*) By owners	14
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	NIL

C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of reports in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	16
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	13
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	NIL
(4)	Number of written undertakings to close accepted ..	NIL

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which written undertakings to close accepted ..	NIL

	(3)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	NIL
4.	Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :		
(*a*)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of 1955 ..	4
	(2)	Number of above cases of overcrowding relieved during 1956	1
(*b*)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of 1956 ..	3
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	3
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein (Units)	23½
(*c*)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(*d*)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases (Units) ..	11½

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